

Senate Resolution 593

By: Senators Rahman of the 5th, Jones II of the 22nd, Parent of the 42nd, Brass of the 28th,  
Goodman of the 8th and others

### A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 13, 2024, as New Americans Day at the state capitol; and for other  
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, for the past 11 years, New Americans Day celebrations have brought hundreds  
4 of new Americans, friends, and community supporters to the state capitol annually for a day  
5 of education and celebration; and

6 WHEREAS, Georgia has a long history of extending welcome to new Americans from  
7 around the world, giving them an opportunity to live, work, and thrive in the state; and

8 WHEREAS, today, one in ten Georgians—more than one million people—are foreign-born,  
9 bringing valuable skills and talents from countries around the world to the state; and

10 WHEREAS, approximately one in eight Georgia workers is foreign-born, as are one in five  
11 doctors and home health aides; one in five science and technology professionals; one in five  
12 manufacturing workers; and nearly half of all workers in the construction industry; and

13 WHEREAS, foreign-born Georgians are 41 percent more likely than others to start new  
14 businesses in the state, accounting for more than 20 percent of entrepreneurs in the state and  
15 generating more than \$2.5 billion in business income annually; and

16 WHEREAS, hardworking foreign-born Georgians across all sectors paid over \$11 billion in  
17 federal, state, and local taxes and held more than \$32 billion in spending power in 2021  
18 alone; and

19 WHEREAS, nearly half of all foreign-born Georgians are already naturalized United States  
20 citizens eligible to vote and many more are on the path toward citizenship; and

21 WHEREAS, foreign-born Georgians were never more essential to the state than during the  
22 COVID-19 pandemic, serving in disproportionate numbers in front line jobs in hospitals and  
23 assisted living facilities, farms and food processing plants, warehouses and delivery services,  
24 and more; and

25 WHEREAS, since the withdrawal of United States forces from Afghanistan in August 2021  
26 and the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Georgia has provided refuge to thousands and  
27 granted humanitarian parole to escape those countries and come to safety in the United  
28 States, including many who risked their lives to support the United States' mission overseas;  
29 and

30 WHEREAS, Georgia has one of the oldest and most successful refugee programs in the  
31 United States, with approximately 90 percent of refugees economically self-sufficient within  
32 six months; and

33 WHEREAS, Georgia is a welcoming home for peoples of all origins and from all walks of  
34 life, and it is abundantly fitting and proper that these new Americans be appropriately  
35 recognized.

36 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
37 recognize and commend the manifold contributions of immigrants to the State of Georgia  
38 and recognize February 13, 2024, as New Americans Day at the state capitol.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
40 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the  
41 press.